

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the chairman for this important clarification.●

TRIBUTE TO DELEGATE LACEY PUTNEY

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, across our great Nation in the 50 State legislatures, we find true public servants who receive very little remuneration, but dedicate themselves to the challenge—the pain and the joy—of representing at the grassroots of American citizens. They are the first line of defense and offense for our citizens.

I rise today to pay tribute to one who quietly and humbly personifies the best qualities of these public servants. Delegate Lacey Putney of Big Island, VA, is the most senior member of the Virginia House of Delegates and the only Independent. When he is re-elected today, he will tie with former speaker John Warren Cooke's record for the longest service in Virginia's General Assembly—38 years.

Delegate Putney and I were classmates and close friends as students at Washington and Lee University a half century ago. I have been privileged to count him as a valued advisor since that time.

As this month's "Virginia—Capitol Connections" magazine states: "Lacey Putney: The Democrats Want Him, The Republicans Want Him, But the People of Virginia Have Him."

I ask unanimous consent to place in the RECORD at this point two tributes to Delegate Putney.

The tributes follow:

THE HONORABLE LACEY E. PUTNEY

(By Charles W. Gunn, Jr.)

Some forty-two years ago I first met Lacey Putney, the country gentleman from Big Island, Virginia. This young man was different from most in his comfortable approach to strangers in that he assisted them while thanking them for helping him. I never saw him ask for help, but I saw him carefully seek out those who needed help.

His deep compassion for his fellow man was quite unique and so needed in our world today. He is a man of action with many personal accomplishments of assisting the most needy without seeking public acknowledgment. When he hears of a need, he responds either in person or else contacts the person or agency who can best address the problem. He is tough and thorough, while coupled with a soft heart. If you decide to debate him, be certain you are well prepared, for he seldom uses all of his ammunition but saves some for the rebuttal. He rarely loses!

During his thirty-six years of selfless service, thousands of citizens have been helped by his legislative actions. Equally, thousands have been helped by his personal involvement or intervention. He is an Independent by choice (officially since 1967) but has always been independent in making decisions in our government. If it's a matter of principle, Lacey will take his stand even if he is alone. That's integrity at its best.

I am grateful to Lacey's wonderful wife, Elizabeth, and his children, Susan and Edward, for their sacrifice in giving Lacey their sincere support during these thirty-six years of service to all Virginians.

Lacey touched my personal life and family in ways that were miraculous as he did in

dozens of lives that I am personally aware of. His private nature and extreme humility prevented me from detailing these "personal blessings" that he made possible for many of us.

I am honored to have the privilege of sharing with you some of the contributions made by the country boy from Big Island; that man of great integrity, wisdom, faith, compassion and humility; the gentleman from Bedford, the Honorable Lacey E. Putney, House of Delegates member, Nineteenth District, with thirty-six years of distinction.

"Bedford City Council works with a number of Virginia legislators and it is gratifying to see the high level of esteem and respect that Lacey is accorded from both his state peers as well as national representatives.

"Lacey has taken a personal interest in assuring that Bedford has received proper recognition and the deserved respect on the following:

"Passage of legislation that guaranteed Barr Laboratories locating in Bedford County;

"Strong leadership position with respect to the National D-Day Memorial's state funding;

"Persistence with the Highway Commission to insure needed work on Highway 501 and the Independence Boulevard project.

"Lacey has responded to the needs of our community in real time with real results.

"Lacey plays a pretty good game of tennis for an old guy."—Skip Tharp, Bedford City Council.●

SURGE IN DIABETES

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, as I work with my colleagues to increase federal support for combating the incidence of diabetes particularly among minorities such as American Indians, Hispanics, Blacks, and Asians, I would like to draw your attention to an article in Monday's Washington Times, November 3, 1997. It is by Joyce Howard Price and entitled "Surge in diabetes tied to unhealthy lifestyles."

Dr. Gerald Bernstein, President-elect of the American Diabetes Association, is reported to say that the national increase in diabetes was predictable, "given that the population is older, fatter, and less active."

Dr. Bernstein was referring to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimating that 16 million Americans currently have diabetes, but only 10 million have been diagnosed. He said, "Cancer is much more dramatic and devastating. With diabetes, you erode and rot away. It's almost like leprosy."

The article goes on to quote Dr. Richard C. Eastman, director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases who said, "While we usually get an increase of 3 to 4 percent, there was an 8 percent increase this year. We fund 1 in 4 or 1 in 5 investigators." Dr. Eastman estimates the current national research effort in diabetes at \$200 million.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Donna Shalala agreed with me earlier this year that a special effort is needed to create a multi-million dollar effort for a "large-scale, coordi-

nated primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention effort among the Navajo, who have a large population with a high incidence of diabetes and risk factors for diabetes."

I have reached agreements in the Senate Appropriations bill for Labor-HHS to fund such a center for preventing diabetes in Gallup, New Mexico. In a colloquy with Subcommittee Chairman ARLEN SPECTER, we will affirm the need for this center in our national approach to alleviating the acute increases in diabetes, especially among American Indians whose incidence rate is almost three times the national average.

Among Navajo Indians over age 45, two in five have been diagnosed as diabetic, and many experts believe that almost four in five actually have diabetes, but we will not know until our outreach and testing efforts are improved on this vast Indian reservation.

Dr. Bernstein "points out that the gene that predisposes someone to diabetes is five times more prevalent in American Indians than in whites and twice as prevalent in blacks, Hispanics and Asians than in non-Hispanic whites." He says the disease has "failed to get priority status because it strikes minorities disproportionately."

He is absolutely right about the lack of attention to the problems of Navajo and Zuni Indians in New Mexico and Arizona. I would remind my colleagues that the Balanced Budget Act of 1998 has a \$30 million per year program for preventing and treating diabetes among American Indians through the Indian Health Service (IHS). This commitment is for five years or a total of \$150 million.

I am currently working with HHS Secretary Shalala to coordinate the efforts of this IHS funding from the Balanced Budget Act with CDC to focus on designing more culturally relevant prevention and diagnosis approaches in a new prevention research center in Gallup, New Mexico. Even if we are slow to learn more about treating this dreaded disease, enough is known today to significantly control the negative end results of diabetes like blindness, amputation, and kidney failure.

I hope my colleagues will continue to support my efforts to create this very specialized center for the study of improving prevention techniques for Indians and other minorities. In the case of Navajo and Zuni Indians, prevention can be difficult to incorporate into daily reservation life. Exercise programs may not be readily available, dietary changes may be contrary to local custom for preparing foods, or soft drinks may be routinely substituted for drinking water that is not plentiful or potable.

These kinds of factors in Indian life will be studied carefully at the Gallup Diabetes Prevention Research Center. Recommendations and CDC assistance will be provided to IHS service providers throughout the Navajo Nation, the Zuni Pueblo, and other Apache and